



HEMPSTEAD

NASSAU
COUNTY



AMERICA'S LARGEST TOWNSHIP



Mr. Harold P. Herman
Presiding Supervisor
Town of Hempstead



TOWN BOARD
TOWN HALL, HEMPSTEAD
NASSAU COUNTY, N. Y.

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To the People of
Hempstead Town

Dear Neighbors:

This booklet has been prepared to give you comprehensive information on the role of local Town Government in your daily life. This, the most democratic government form yet devised, stems from the Town Meeting of Colonial days. Through the years it has maintained the principles of "home rule" while being geared to meet the greater complexity of problems of modern living brought about by our tremendous increase in population.

We believe that, as civic minded residents and as taxpayers, you will find in the following pages information giving you a clearer understanding of the functions of Town Government in your life and the lives of your family and neighbors. This booklet should also be of textbook help to our school children in the study of civics, in understanding the varying responsibilities of local, State and Federal Governments.

The Town of Hempstead has a rich heritage, going back to the purchase of Hempstead Plain from the Indians in 1643. A few years later the Duke's Laws Convention in Hempstead set the framework for Town Government in New York Colony. These basic tenets were adopted by other colonies and states across the nation as population spread westward.

It is indeed a tribute to the members of that Convention that the foundation which they laid has been so thoroughly successful in supporting the government structure for 300 years. We are also thankful for the awareness, vision and enlightened thought and action of Town Boards down through the years. They effected changes to meet the changing problems of time.

Today, Town Government is old in form, but modern in system, prepared to provide services to the ever-increasing resident population.

It remains the government closest to the people and most responsive to their wishes and needs.

Cordially

Harold P. Herman
Presiding Supervisor

Ex Libris

SEYMOUR DURST

EVERY
DURST

THE TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

Its history and growth

JOHN Carman, Robert Fordham and their friends crossed the Long Island Sound from Connecticut in 1643 and purchased from the Indians a ten-mile strip of land running from the Sound to the Atlantic Ocean. The following year, the Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam granted them a patent providing that they must set up a court of law and must cultivate the land in a manner to enrich the soil.

The area was named Hempstead after the English village of that name. The stockade was built on what is now the parking field opposite the Town Hall and behind St. Georges Church in Hempstead.

The Duke's Laws Convention of 1664-5 was held here following the British capture of New York from the Dutch. Two representatives from each of the 17 towns then established in New York Colony attended to adopt these basic principles of law and local government. This Township form of operation today legislates for, protects the rights of, and provides services to more than 600,000 residents.

New settlers spread to new locations and developed the many attractive communities within our Township. In 1680 the original counties of New York Colony were established with Hempstead becoming part of Queens County. In 1899 it was included in the new County of Nassau. Over 100 years before, political differences brought on by the Revolution, caused the residents of the northern part of Hempstead to break away in 1784 and to form the separate Township of North Hempstead.

It wasn't until the middle of the last century that the first village within the Town was incorporated, thus taking over from the Town many legislative, protective and service functions relative to their population. There are now 21* incorporated villages within the Town, nearly half of which are small restricted, residential areas. However, these villages must still rely on the Town for services. Only the City of Long Beach is completely outside the jurisdiction of the Town.

Though many unincorporated areas are now more populous than the biggest incorporated villages, there have been no further incorporations since 1928.

Today the Town of Hempstead stands as the largest township by population in the State and in the Nation. New conditions have brought new problems, requiring amendments to existing statutes and, in some instances, special statutes. Yet, true "home rule" continues to prevail in all matters, whether pertaining only to small areas or to our entire population.

TOWN OF
HEMPSTEAD
SINCE 1643



*The following incorporated villages are located within the boundaries of the Town of Hempstead: Bellerose, Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Floral Park, Freeport, Garden City, Hempstead, Hewlett Bay Park, Hewlett Harbor, Hewlett Neck, Island Park, Lawrence, Lynbrook, Malverne, New Hyde Park, Rockville Centre, South Floral Park, Stewart Manor, Valley Stream and Woodsburgh. They are individually responsible for legislative, protective and service functions to the residents and property owners within their boundaries, although the Town provides and maintains certain facilities and services for all residents of both incorporated and unincorporated areas. All other areas of the Town are unincorporated and depend completely on the Town Board for the facilities and services of government.



THE TOWN IN YOUR LIFE...

THE "Town Meeting," considered one of the finest truly American institutions, continues to provide the legislative form for the people of America's largest Township, a town larger in size and population than all but the greatest cities. True "home rule" remains in the 20th Century just as it was planned by the colonists of the 17th and enjoyed by the patriots of the 18th century.

The Town of Hempstead enjoys a form of government which is outstanding in its flexibility to handle a great variety of problems and services: industry, business, residential, both general and special.

Your interest in Town government goes far beyond voting on Election Day. You not only exercise control over the selection of officials to operate your government, but over the type and cost of the services which it will provide you. Meetings of the Town Board are open to the public; hearings may be demanded with cause on any issue.

You are unconsciously dealing with your government many times a day — in the water for your bath or for the sprinkler, in the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse, in the fire protection which you hope will not be needed but which by its presence assures low insurance rates. There are the streets on which you ride, the sidewalks for safe walking, the lighting which makes them both safe at night, and the police protection which guards you and yours at all times.



HEMPSTEAD



Hempstead Town Hall

There are other occasions when you may receive some service or benefit of your town government. Zoning may protect or increase the value of your property. It may also attract much wanted business or industry to help ease the burden of taxes, provide advantageous employment or add convenience to shopping. There may be parks and playgrounds for you and your family. Should you travel on your waterways, markers and docks provided by the Town add to your safety and convenience.

These are just a few examples of the things we all take for granted, seldom considering just how they came to be. Through the following pages we will endeavor to bring a greater understanding of each facet of your Town Government, how it meets your needs.

In this way it is hoped that you will enjoy more of the things the Town offers as well as understand the extents to which it may go in the future in offering extended benefits to the residents of Hempstead, to the unincorporated areas where the Town has full jurisdiction and to the incorporated villages where it has jurisdiction only in certain matters.



LEGISLATION and ADMINISTRATION

The Town Board, consisting of a Presiding Supervisor and a Supervisor elected for 2 years and four Councilmen, elected for 4-year terms, serves as the legislative and administrative body of the Town Government. They all are charged with providing for safety, welfare and health of the people of the Town of Hempstead.

It has been the keen foresight, intelligent planning, and efficient administration of modern town "home rule" government that has made it possible for Hempstead to take such tremendous strides, to solve the weighty problems encountered in the Town's rise from rural, to suburban and approaching urban.

The laws of the Town are ordinances made by and carried out under the supervision of the Town Board. These cover many things, but each one is aimed at contributing to the safety, welfare, health and individual liberty of you and your neighbors. They cover building and zoning regulations, restrictions on parking and the use of streets, specifications for street and highway construction, safeguards in excavation in and under streets and sidewalks, action on unsafe buildings and sand pits, and the operation of water supply and sanitary disposal districts.

Other ordinances concern boat operation in Town waters, use of Town docks, fishing and shell fishing in Town waters, wildlife conservation, the use of Town parks and playgrounds, and the licensing and care of dogs. Still others cover smoke control, unnecessary noise, trespassing and vandalism, dumping, cleanup of lots, brush and debris, storage of flammables, use of explosives, restrictions on open air markets and junk dealers, permits for riding academies and carnivals, bus franchises, peddlers' licenses, removal of topsoil, construction of sidewalks, and numerous other matters directly affecting your daily life.

Perhaps no ordinance has required more attention, more thought and more modification in the past few years than the Zoning Ordinance. The tremendous population increase brought new conditions calling for realistic recognition of changing factors while preserving the spirit and intent of the zoning laws in the best interest of the majority of the



people. Thus it was necessary to encourage low cost housing to meet the needs of veterans and low-income groups; to attract business and light industry to locate here in order to produce needed tax revenue, provide added local employment and generally strengthen the economic balance of the community.

The Town Board is also the administrative body for the many services supplied to the residents, except for certain special districts where the residents have elected to set up their own boards of commissioners. The Town Board supervises various departments of the government and many of the special districts. Though the cost of this administration is now almost \$3,000,000 annually there has been no Town tax for more than 15 years! These expenses are met largely through revenues returned by the State and by fees.

Town Board meetings are held each Tuesday to pass on legislation and for hearings on proposed legislation or complaints. However, members of the Board are constantly busy with the affairs and problems of the Town. Hempstead's two Supervisors sit with the Supervisors of each of the two other towns and two cities and the County Executive. They all comprise the "Nassau County Board of Supervisors."



THE TOWN CLERK



A marriage license is issued by a deputy



Increased recording and filing require added personnel and space



Peddler's license is checked by policeman



Another lucky dog is licensed by Town Clerk

LICENSING and RECORDING

Perhaps nowhere is the development of the Town more clearly pictured than in its records, vital statistics and licenses. Their accumulation and tremendous annual increase reflect the steady growth from a rural area to the busiest and most populous township in the State. These records and services are of utmost importance to you, often at some critical point in your life.

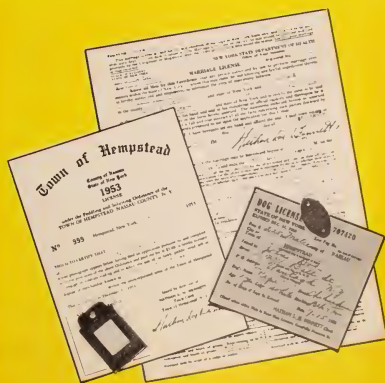
Should you be born anywhere in the unincorporated area of Hempstead, including Meadowbrook, Mitchell Field, or South Nassau Communities Hospitals, your birth certificate will be issued and recorded by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. No matter where you live, if you plan to be married, the Town Clerk will issue your marriage license. And finally, upon your death a certificate will be issued and recorded and a record of the burial, if it is within the unincorporated area, will be entered.

Birth and death records, which now include photostatic copies of the original certificate have been maintained since 1881, and are of inestimable value to the individual in showing proof of birth to gain employment, to obtain a passport or a driver's license, to enter military service or to receive Social Security benefits — in showing proof of birth or another's death in legal matters. The original certificates are forwarded to the Nassau County Health Department for recording and thence to the New York State Health Department for permanent filing.

The Town Clerk also issues dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses and permits for shellfishing. Also issued here are licenses and permits for peddlers and junk dealers, for operation of carnivals and riding academies, for the storage of gasoline and other flammables, and for the use of explosives and the disposal of fireworks. Permits for outdoor signs and billboards are issued by the Building Department. This control is aimed at reducing traffic hazards and avoiding unsightly displays along your streets and highways. The others are all designed to safeguard the public and to maintain a safe, attractive community.

Notices of all public hearings including those on proposed ordinances, contemplated changes, establishment of special districts, and applications for gasoline stations are published in advance to permit those affected to attend the hearing — to observe the discussion or to be heard. The minutes of all Town Board meetings are recorded and available at all times for public inspection.

Town records and copies of permits and licenses are retained in the Town Clerk's Office. A complete Photostat Department provides necessary working copies of all documents, papers and permits for the various departments of the Town government and also micro-filmed permanent records.



ZONING and PLANNING

The entire unincorporated area of the Town of Hempstead is divided into zoning districts, each being classified to permit certain types of buildings and use of the premises for certain purposes. These districts were originally defined by the Town Board after appropriate public hearings under the provisions of the Town Law of the State. Zoning within incorporated areas is enacted and enforced by the village and city authorities.

The purpose of establishing zoning restrictions is to develop the area according to a comprehensive plan designed to conserve or increase the value of existing buildings and property. Zoning encourages the most appropriate use of the land, promotes health and general welfare, prevents overcrowding and undue concentration of population. It is also aimed to reduce street and highway congestion, secure safety from fire and other dangers, provide adequate light and air, and assure properly placed utilities, schools, parks, and other needs — all for the greatest good for the greatest number.

Your unincorporated lands are divided into seven districts or classifications, each having a different set of limitations. These are Residence A, Residence B, Residence C, Residence C-A (garden-type apartments), Business, Light Manufacturing, and Industrial. The Zoning Ordinance with amendments defines the limitations and restrictions applying to each. Anyone planning to build, buy property with the intention of building, or put any property to a use other than now in effect, should first verify the district in which it is located and the restrictions applicable to that district. Where such plans appear to come within the law, it is then in order to proceed.

Often a zoning variance or change is necessary even before a building permit can be considered. In many cases the provisions of the ordinance so restrict a plot of unusual shape or size that it cannot be used for a purpose for which it is zoned. This is considered an unnecessary hardship and the owner must apply to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance. After properly notifying all property owners within 200 feet of this boundary, he may make his appeal before the Board, and the neighboring property owners may appear at the same time to substantiate or oppose the appeal. After hearing the arguments the Board of Appeals then grants or denies the petition.

Cases calling for rezoning and all applications for gasoline stations and parking areas must be submitted to the Town Board, which acts on them in a similar manner after publishing an advance notice of the hearing. The Board of Appeals now makes decisions on approximately 1000 variance appeals annually, while the Town Board must consider half that many "special exceptions."

In order that such variances and rezoning will not combine to divert the intent of the overall plan, and also in order that the plan may be modified from time to time to meet changing economic and social conditions, there is teamwork with the County Planning Commission which maintains a close check on all town changes and studies town trends. In this regard it endeavors to anticipate future needs and to suggest changes and modifications to more easily prepare for them. It also studies all applications for rezoning and makes recommendations to the Town Board. The Board members maintain membership in and work in conjunction with the Nassau County Planning Board.

The tremendous growth of the Town in recent years has been a severe test of the wisdom of past planning and existing zoning regulations and of decisions made on a flood of requests for change. This has required immediate recognition of fast-changing conditions and differentiation between temporary and permanent changes while adhering to the general intent of the zoning plan to avoid possible hardship to other members of the community.

Change is recognized, new conditions make new demands. The foremost consideration is always:

"Does this change generally conform with the overall plan? Is it the most appropriate use of the property? Is it detrimental to adjoining properties?"





BUILDING CONTROL

New building construction in the Town of Hempstead, which before the war averaged 2500 units costing about \$5 million annually, now averages 15,000 units at a cost of nearly \$100 million. The two-thirds of a billion dollars worth of building since the war has required care in the issuance of building permits. Particular attention must be paid to compliance with both zoning and structural ordinances. Careful study of plans and inspection, during and after construction, is required to protect the interests of future buyers, neighbors and the Community.

Many factors must be considered before allowing new construction, if these buildings are to be a permanent asset to an area. Type and intended use of the building must comply with zoning regulations. Structural plans must meet approved standards of architectural design and building construction. Grade and elevation of property must be checked to assure proper drainage not only of the plot in question but to prevent adverse effects on neighboring parcels. Water, sewage disposal and other utilities must be available and able to handle the new loads. Streets, sidewalks and parking facilities must be provided, and effects on traffic and transportation conditions must be considered.

Although reputable builders consider these matters in their preliminary planning, it is nevertheless necessary for Town officials to check each application, and the Building Department must be thoroughly satisfied that all conditions are met before issuing a permit for construction. At the present building rate, it means checking such applications for over 50 buildings per day ranging from small additions and service units to large apartments or industrial buildings costing several million dollars.

Inspections must be made in the course of construction to ascertain that all work is following the approved plan both as to location and structural design. With the Town having jurisdiction over 38 unincorporated areas comprising some 100 square miles, this inspection work is a gigantic task, yet without it, the study and thought given in issuing the permit would mean little in the main objective which is to assure the erection of buildings which will be an asset to the community and will be worth what the home buyer pays for them.

HIGHWAYS and STREETS

TO BE REPAIRED, MAINTAINED, CLEANED & PLOWED



Improvements for safety



Resurfacing



Maintenance



Ready for the first snow



A small part of the modern automotive fleet which maintains over 1500 miles of Town roads and streets.

Over 1500 miles of Town roads and streets is a big job of maintenance, repair, cleaning, sign posting and snow removal. The fact that repair and maintenance fell far behind during the war due to material shortages, combined with the addition of 400 miles of new streets during the post-war building boom, has made the job all the harder.

Complete modernization of the Town of Hempstead Highway Department helped to carry the load. Trucks, heavy equipment and machinery are of the latest design and the installation of a two-way radio system has gone far to speed communications and improve efficiency. Where 123 men and 37 trucks handled the job in 1941, 350 men and 123 trucks are now required. There are also graders, bulldozers, trailers, tractors, rollers, cranes, and sweepers, and when winter comes, 149 snow-plows must be ready to roll.

Material needs for maintenance of this great network of town roads are also large. Last year 34,000 cubic yards of cinders, 18,000 cubic yards of sand, 46,000 cubic yards of stone and a million and a quarter gallons of asphalt were required for this work.

The Town-wide program of drainage, road resurfacing, curbing and new construction, financed by the Highway tax, presently costs approximately \$2 million; labor costs account for nearly half. You can see that an expenditure of up to \$200,000 per year for the latest and best equipment more than pays for itself in labor savings. More work is done — and done better!

Increased traffic resulting from Hempstead's tremendous post-war growth has been a serious factor. Connecting roads now enjoy more traffic than through highways did a few years ago. Streets in outlying residential areas are as heavily travelled as those of the large villages. This has caused extensive road widening and resurfacing as well as increased maintenance.



Two-way radio speeds communications in the field



Hundreds of miles of new water mains have been installed since the War



Sufficient pressure for fire fighting must be maintained



New wells, storage tanks and pumps have been required



WATER SUPPLY

The Town of Hempstead is fortunate in having an excellent water table which furnishes an abundant supply of "aqua pura" for all our household and business needs, and for fire protection. However, the addition of nearly 100,000 buildings outside of the incorporated villages and cities since the war has made necessary many new wells, storage tanks and pumps, plus hundreds of miles of new water mains and thousands of new fire hydrants.

In the areas served by private water companies the Town takes every possible measure to see that the supplier provides the wells, tanks and pumps required to handle increased demands, subject to the regulations of the Public Service Commission under State Laws. This is not always easy, especially, if the water company feels financially unable to make the capital improvements. Installations by the publicly owned water supply districts consist of mains and hydrants for fire protection. In other areas it has been necessary to set up complete water districts under the supervision of the Town Board. The individual district drills its own wells, erects its storage tanks, installs pumping equipment and maintains mains and meters.

Both the complete water districts and the water supply districts are under the direct control of their own consumers. Taxes, based on budgets approved by the voters, are collected by the Town and turned over without charge to the individual districts. The supervisor's office also handles without charge the payroll for these districts.

Town ordinances on the use of water, including car washing and lawn sprinkling, are designed to assure constant pressure for you in your homes as well as to keep you protected in case of fire. Although water supply and pumping is more than sufficient for normal conditions, it is necessary to have provisions for assuring adequate pressure during periods of peak consumption and during dry spells when the water table is below normal.





"the most ideal plant of its kind in the world"



SANITARY DISPOSAL

The tremendous post-war growth of the Town of Hempstead brought mountains of garbage which overwhelmed existing incinerators in many sanitary districts. Action had to be taken in 1949 to construct a \$2,500,000 disposal plant on 150 acres of Town-purchased County-owned lowland adjacent to Meadowbrook Causeway. This plant serves all the unincorporated area of the town except Sanitary District No. 1 in the "Branch."

Tabbed by experts and proved by recent laboratory tests as "the most ideal plant of its kind in the world," the new incinerator is capable of consuming 750 tons of garbage and refuse daily with no smoke clouds, floating ash, odors or gases. It contains the largest circular fire chamber ever built and the very latest in disposal equipment: special shredders to prepare tree branches for burning, machines for screening and collapsing tin cans, and a special power plant to convert the intense heat into power for all heating and electrical purposes.

The immense capacity of this plant also has made it possible, through special legislation, to provide much needed relief to incorporated areas which might otherwise have to build new plants to handle their own increased load. Meanwhile, this new incinerator is enabling your Town to reclaim surrounding marshland for use as athletic fields, playgrounds and shoreline development.

Conversion of farm acreage into populous communities demanded additional trucks and collectors in established Sanitary Districts. New Garbage and Refuse Collection Districts had to be created.

Meanwhile, your town engineers cooperated with the County of Nassau in its huge sewer disposal system to provide large trunk lines to connect with the Bay Park Sewage Disposal Plant and "laterals" to serve the most populous area of the Town. This work is being carried out in section after section, eliminating the nuisance of cesspools which have become more and more of a threat to underground water resources and the public health.



WATERWAYS



Many canals for convenient docking



Channel markers serve the boatsmen



Sea wall at Point Lookout



Pleasant harbors for safe anchorage

and DOCKS

The entire South Shore of the Town of Hempstead is strung with inlets, bays, channels and canals between the mainland and the oceanfront strips of Atlantic Beach, Long Beach, Point Lookout and Jones Beach. In order that they may be used to the fullest by the boating and fishing enthusiasts, the Town maintains many of these navigable waters and provides buoys, markers and docks.

The value and attractiveness of large stretches of waterfront property has been increased by the program of the Town Board to reclaim many acres through bulkheading and fill and to make them active "taxpayers" and assets to the community. At the same time all proposed dredging operations and waterfront construction is thoroughly checked by Town engineers to prevent damage to existing waterfront properties.

Pleasure craft and commercial boats in and around Freeport, Seaford, Inwood and other South Shore communities benefit from the Town program to keep channels and canals open and properly marked. Town docks at Seaford, Merrick and Woodmere augment the many facilities provided by private clubs, boat yards and marine service stations for regular and transient "tie-up."

Bay wardens, alert to any violations of Town ordinances, patrol your Town waters. They maintain a watch over the shellfish beds to enforce permit restrictions and to see that only those beds in waters approved by the Board of Health are used, thus preventing shellfish found in polluted waters from reaching the market.

Your Town of Hempstead officials having long spearheaded pleas for Federal action in stabilizing Jones Inlet to prevent the strong tidal waters from completely washing away the east end of Point Lookout. This also is to reduce navigational hazards to pleasure and commercial boating. Erosion continues to undermine the Point Lookout sea wall, built by the Town some years ago at a cost of more than \$400,000 and later requiring \$100,000 worth of additional dredging to save it. This wall is all that keeps the buildings of Point Lookout from falling into the sea.

Plans for a huge jetty extending out into the ocean to prevent the gradual westward movement of the inlet have been approved along with an arrangement for the original costs to be shared 50% by the State, and 25% each by the County and Town, these costs to be reimbursed someday by the Federal government. For many years Congress failed to recognize this great danger to Long Island.

Finally it was agreed that U. S. Army Engineers would accept bids and let the contract, providing the State, County and Town immediately raised the necessary money. Work is now proceeding on a \$3,790,000 jetty which engineers say will "stabilize" Jones Inlet. New York State, the County of Nassau and the Town of Hempstead, by emergency legislation, raised their shares of the cost of this project.



Town docks augment private facilities



Bay wardens patrol Town waters

No matter how far from the waterfront you may live in the Town, enjoyment of the use of the waterways and docks is yours for the asking. If you have no boat of your own, you can hire one to go fishing or cruising in the inland or coastal waters. There are many excellent boat and yacht clubs which you may join and a "Power Squadron" which is considered one of the finest on the entire Eastern seaboard. The Coast Guard and the fleet of the Nassau County Police Marine Division are on the alert for your protection.

Only in Venice are there greater water accommodations. And during the past two summers, gondolas have brought a touch of the "Jewel of the Adriatic" to Jones Beach.



New jetty will stabilize Jones Inlet and reduce navigational hazards.



Before

Installation of modern illumination affords greater safety on your streets and highways.



After

LIGHTING

The development of the unincorporated areas of the Township from rural farming sections into populous communities blanketed the entire area with a vast network of electrical transmission lines and light poles equal to that formerly required only by the villages and cities. This increased illumination is essential for your safety as a motorist or pedestrian. It also is a deterrent to crime. Signal lights have been added by the hundreds at busy intersections to further traffic safety.

Established lighting districts have taken on new loads. New districts have been set up in what only a few years ago were nothing but farms, but are now thriving communities. Although the bill for this public lighting has naturally multiplied many times in these districts, the cost to the individual has remained reasonably constant due to the increased real estate valuations going on the assessment rolls.

The bigger problem has been to foresee and provide for these greatly increased lighting requirements, for the tremendous power output and transmission needed to heat and light more than 95,000 residential and commercial buildings erected since World War II. Here the Town Board and various Town departments concerned work closely with local utilities in the program to furnish increased power-generating facilities, relay stations, transmission lines, poles and lead-ins to meet the heavy demand.

Severe materials and personnel shortages and priority systems created by the war and the defense program made this task more difficult. The problem is to obtain adequate experienced manpower to complete the long overdue installations. The Town Board even appealed to the Lighting Company to import out-of-State electricians to speed up the light up.



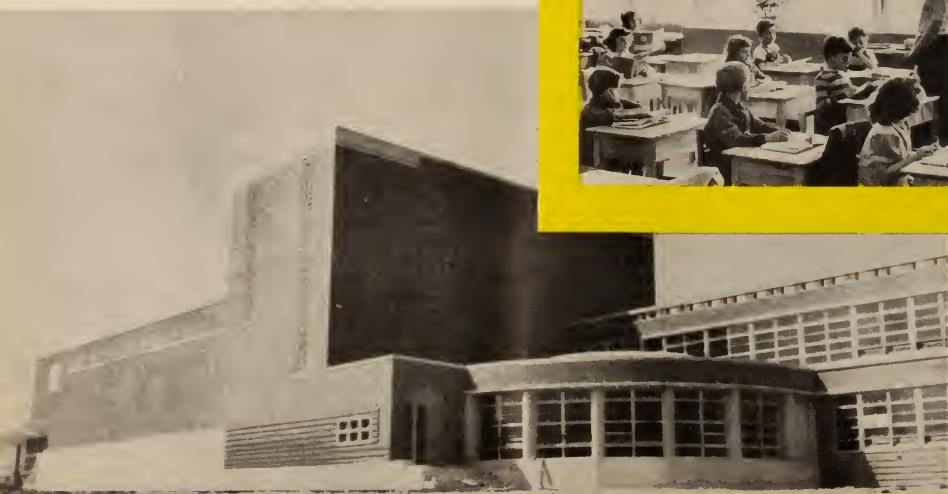
EDUCATION

The Town of Hempstead has unequalled educational facilities including public, private, and parochial schools and private colleges. The public school system is set up by locally controlled school districts. These districts are subject only to their residents. The State Board of Regents does have control over curriculum. But schools are divorced from any political division of government.

The Town serves only as a tax collection agent for the districts (and without charge), and the County further aids by assuming the obligation of making up any deficits in unpaid taxes.

Within the Town of Hempstead boundaries, there are 31 separate school districts plus portions of two others, each having their own school buildings and staffs for the primary grades, many of them including high school facilities. There are also numerous private and parochial schools running from pre-kindergarten level through the high school grades. Adelphia College in Garden City and Hofstra College in Hempstead provide liberal arts courses.

Home development and population growth have brought new problems to public school districts, just as they have to other special service districts. The growing pains which the incorporated areas experienced during the 20's with resultant demands for new schools and additions to older buildings, have been heaped on unincorporated areas to an even greater degree and at a time when construction costs are soaring.





Adelphi College



Hofstra College

Levittown is certainly the outstanding example. An area that a few years ago was handled by a one-room schoolhouse, now finds itself in the operation of five separate districts, suddenly needing school rooms for more than 30,000 additional pupils. At the start the majority were eligible only for kindergarten or first grade, very few ready for the upper grades or high school. Each year another grade requires major reenforcement, and total enrollment takes a big jump. There is a problem of curriculum as well as buildings and teachers.

School districts, independent and voting for their own school boards, budgets and investments in property and buildings have had a difficult choice. The tremendous increase in the number of students has demanded more teachers.

Mounting costs of property and construction have been a mighty deterrent, for every dollar spent means an increase in the tax rate for that district. The bigger the enrollment, the greater the tax increase.

Fortunately industry and business have found your Town a good place in which to settle. Their tax contributions have gone far to relieve the homeowner's burden in many districts. Due to zoning ordinances, location and other factors some districts have been more fortunate than others. Nassau County legislators have obtained millions of dollars in extra State aid for districts whose needs have been greatest and where there is less industrial and business assessment to help bear the cost.





THE WORLD'S

More than 15 miles of the finest ocean-front beaches make up the southern boundary of the Town of Hempstead. These sandy shores offer superb ocean bathing in the waters of the Atlantic. They extend eastward from Atlantic Beach with its fashionable beach clubs, past boardwalk- and hotel-lined Long Beach, the famed Lido Beach Hotel and Club and the Hempstead Town Park at Point Lookout to world-renowned Jones Beach.



The Town Park, where attendance figures annually reach the million mark has more than 4000 feet of ocean beach, 1000 feet of which is used for fishermen, restricted to the residents of the Town of Hempstead. Part of the Colonial lands of the Town, this area was once accessible only by boat. Following the completion of Lido Boulevard from Long Beach to Point Lookout, the Town built a small parking strip here in 1927 for the use of Town residents.

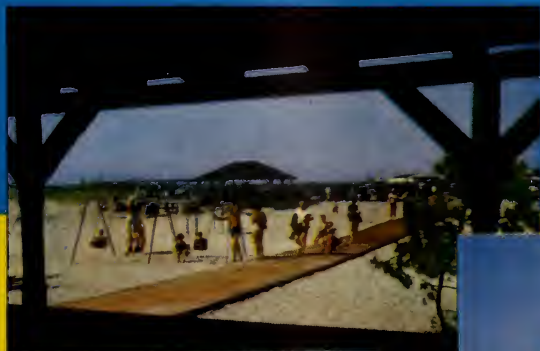


Rapid popularity of the Town Park required the construction of a bathhouse, refreshment stand, comfort stations and additional parking facilities. These soon proved inadequate for the increasing numbers of Town residents who enjoyed the safe feeling of bathing in Long Island's purest waters protected by squads of thoroughly trained, experienced lifeguards. There have followed further acquisitions to the Park property and the construction of larger and more modern facilities. A six-lane entrance now assures quick access to the 10,000-car parking field on even the busiest days. There are

FINEST BEACHES...

four bathhouses, five picnic pavilions complete with open fireplaces for outdoor cooking, 58 cabanas and a large play area with swings, see-saws and "jungle bars" for the children.

Further east is famed Jones Beach, built by the State of New York as the largest and finest public beach in the world. The Town of Hempstead takes great pride in this fine resort inasmuch as it and the network of causeways which lead to it are built on lands owned and controlled by the Town for hundreds of years but deeded to the State.





Jones Beach

BEACHES

(Continued)

Jones Beach not only serves as a grand recreational spot for residents of the Town, but attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually from every state of the Union and many foreign lands. It also serves as a welcome oasis for thousands of New Yorkers eager to escape the heat of the city on hot summer days. Yet such is the size of this great park that they may easily be accommodated while still leaving plenty of room for our own residents. Broad State Parkways connecting with the New York City Parkway system permit steady flow of metropolitan traffic without causing tie-ups on your local streets and roads. Many of your new neighbors first thought of moving out here from the city while enjoying the cooling breezes of the Atlantic at Jones Beach.

At Long Beach we find a modern boardwalk bordering the ocean beach for more than two miles. Attractive cottages, apartments and hotels offer pleasant accommodations for summer residents and visitors. Atlantic Beach offers some of the finest ocean beach clubs on the Atlantic coast in addition to a boardwalk and public beach restricted to residents of the park district. There are other park district beaches at East Atlantic Beach, Lido and Point Lookout.



Bath Clubs at Atlantic Beach



The Lido Beach Hotel



FISHING for FOOD or FUN

The waters along the South Shore offer some of the finest salt water fishing to be found anywhere. The "catch" runs from exciting tuna and blue fishing in the ocean to clamming on the banks of bays and inlets.

Party boats and trim craft for private charter are available at Freeport and other shore points to make fast runs several miles "outside" to where the tuna, blue, fluke and weakfish run in quantity and generous size during the season. There are also some bonita and an occasional white marlin. These are a worthy challenge to the angling skill and sporting blood of the most experienced rod and reeler. Surf fishing is extremely popular, and large areas of beach front at Point Lookout and Jones Beach are set aside especially for those casting for "stripers."

Many miles of bays and inlets abound in fluke, flounder and porgies. These areas attract thousands of privately owned craft, rowboats and outboard motors rented at fishing stations along many of the canals leading out of South Shore communities. Other inveterate anglers forego the bother and lost time of reaching these fishing grounds by boat simply by driving to one of the hundreds of small bridges crossing these waters and drop their lines there. Still others seek blackfish or blue claw crabs off the docks and piers. Both hard and soft shell clams are also found along the shore. A permit is required for clamming as a conservation measure to prevent "outsiders" from depleting the "beds."

Throughout the Town are brooks, streams and ponds offering an assortment of trout or bass. A fishing license is required for angling in these fresh waters.

This abundance of fish has led to the development of an immense commercial fishing business. long one of the leading industries in the Town. Large fishing fleets may be seen going out to sea daily, returning with bulging holds to meet the needs of Long Island and New York markets. Dock-side markets sell fresh-caught fish at wholesale and retail; many shore restaurants specialize in excellent seafood dinners.



Scattered throughout the Town are parks, playgrounds and play areas of all descriptions, ranging from the 1,000 acre Nassau County Park to small decorative plots. There are State, County and Town facilities in addition to Village parks restricted to residents of those incorporated areas.

Hempstead Lake and Valley Stream State Parks provide picnic grounds and athletic facilities for all. Nassau County Park, located on the site of famed Salisbury Golf Club, is larger than Central Park. It has three golf courses, a pond for model boating or ice skating, ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas and other facilities for residents of Nassau County. The Town Park at Point Lookout is, of course, restricted to residents of the Town.

Nine pools, 25 playgrounds, 12 ballfields and a Community hall are available to residents of Levittown

PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS



whether they live in the Town of Hempstead or in Levitt-built homes in the Town of Oyster Bay. A bi-town special district was created by the legislature, proving that there is no problem of local government — no matter how complicated — which cannot be solved by modern Nassau County towns. Taxpayers of this joint swimming pool and hall district, of course, maintain their own facilities.

Individual park districts have also been set up at Point Lookout, Lido Beach, East Atlantic Beach and Atlantic Beach to provide beach and facilities, each restricted to residents of the individual community. Elsewhere may be found small attractively planted parks graced by a statue, historic cannon or memorial plaque.

These park districts are set up at the request of the people of a given area or community by petition to the Town Board. All Town and district parks are operated and maintained under the supervision of The Town Director of Parks.

HISTORICAL INTEREST...

The Town of Hempstead is rich in history. The records run from earliest Colonial days through the great periods of American destiny to modern times, including a leading role in aviation development. Many historical places and significances are forever buried in the onward rush of progress. Countless others are now permanently marked or noted in the pages of historical journals.

There are various records, notes, and historical paintings depicting the purchase of Hempstead from Chief Tackapousha by John Carman and his friends in 1643. Markers show the site of the Meroke Indian Village, where Merrick was settled in 1643, and mark the founding of Wantagh in 1644, named after the Grand Sachem of the Mohawks. Others point out the sites of "Cherrywood," home of John Seaman, and the home of Robert Jackson, pioneer (1644) settlers of Jerusalem, which is now the northern part of Wantagh. Another marker indicates the site of Raynortown, founded in 1639, and the Grist and Saw Mill built by Daniel Raynor.

A marker in East Rockaway points out the location of the Joseph Haviland Grist and Saw Mill, built in 1683. The many streets, firms and organizations carrying the Meadow Brook name, are memorials to this famed waterway of Colonial days along which were located many of the leading mills of the time.



Rock Hall

Opening ceremony 1953



LONG ISLAND PRESS Photo

Though landmarks may be more picturesque and carry memories of old colonial buildings, a simple metal marker standing in Cooper Field, the central municipal parking field of the Village of Hempstead, carries far greater significance. This marks the site of the Duke's Laws Convention of 1664-5, a meeting of representatives of all the towns (17 at that time) in New York Colony to vote on a legal code to govern the town. This became the basic framework for local government in New York and throughout the nation as colonies and states sprang up.

St. George's Church, with its charter and silver service from Queen Anne, and Christ's First Presbyterian Church, both in Hempstead, stand today as picturesque reminders of Colonial development. Among the grave markers in their churchyards may be found the names of Hempstead's earliest families.

But the most outstanding monument to local colonial history is Rock Hall in Lawrence. Here stands a truly colonial manor, built in 1767, and lived in through these 300 years by the Martin and Hewlett families. Only recently it has been restored completely with authentic colonial furnishings, many priceless antiques from leading museums and private collections. This home is considered "the finest example of Georgian colonial architecture on Long Island," and its venetian blinds are believed to be the oldest in existence.

DeMott's Mill, was located in the Tanglewood section of the Hempstead Lake State Park area. Cooper Field is named for Peter Cooper, once a Presidential candidate and founder of Cooper Union, who had his little shop in Hempstead.

Mitchell Field's true history goes back to the War of 1812 and the Mexican War when the surrounding area served as training quarters for regiments drafted from the Long Island area. Camp Winfield Scott of the Civil War, Camp Black of the Spanish American War and Camp Mills of World War I were located here. Today it is the leading Air Force base in the country.

Shortly after the Wright Brothers made the first powered flight, Hempstead Plain became the scene of major air development. Belmont Park, Nassau Boulevard, Garden City and the area around the present Roosevelt Field and Roosevelt Raceway were the scenes of some of aviation's great early achievements — the Glenn Curtiss flights, the first flight across Long Island Sound, the first flight around the Statue of Liberty, the first air mail service and many others.

The Golden Age of the 20's was climaxed by the pioneer trans-Atlantic flights of Lindbergh, Byrd, Chamberlain and others. Endurance and speed records, the first "blind flight" by Jimmy Doolittle, and other great technical achievements followed.



Christ's Church



Site of first public school



St. George's Church



FIRE PROTECTION

A large, thoroughly trained volunteer fire fighting force, equipped with modern apparatus and the very latest in approved techniques is constantly on the alert to fight fires of all types anywhere in the Town. The 25 independent fire companies located within the unincorporated area cooperate closely with one another and with the various village departments. The result is that insurance rates here have been held at the same level as those in force in New York City, which has three platoons of paid firemen. Fire prevention is as much a job as fire fighting.

These fire companies controlled by the local fire districts, have an enviable record. They have been more than a match for the amazing building growth of the last few years. Many have taken on the added burden of providing coverage for the newer fire protection districts having no equipment of their own. These volunteers have a spirit which is reflected in their quick, mass response to every alarm and in the glistening appearance and perfect working order of their equipment.

Comprehensive training programs keep these volunteers alert and up to date. Frequent participation in local and state-wide tournaments develops sharp physical coordination, quick action, efficiency. The "Vamps" devote countless hours of their time in attending classes at the Nassau County firemanics school, in group practice, in maintenance of equipment and in answering alarms. Their pride is their company; their company is the community's pride and protection.

Town of Hempstead's 5681 volunteers are the best answer to those who advocate paid departments. They provide a far larger fire-fighting force around the clock than would be economically possible on a paid basis, and at a saving of millions of dollars annually.



ANIMAL CONTROL



NEWSDAY Photo

Photograph, HAROLD M. LAMBERT



Another guest arrives



Dogs enjoy individual pens and runs



A new home for this lucky pup

The dog and cat population of your Town has grown rapidly too. Control in a heavily settled community is more work than in a rural area.

Licensing dogs is necessary to establish responsibility, just as with automobiles. Ordinances require leashes as a precaution for the general public against the comparatively few animals which are dangerous. Policing is necessary to further assure the public safety and the observance of ordinances. Dog wardens and a small animal shelter are a necessity for the detention of lost, sick, dangerous and unwanted animals. Through the shelter, many lost dogs are returned to their owners or put away, and the unwanted find happier homes in adoption.

All dogs must be licensed. Licenses for females cost \$5.25, those for males \$2.25. These licenses, serving both as an identification of the dog and its owner can be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk.

A modern shelter, built and operated by the Town, is located in Wantagh. This model hostel for more than 150 dogs in individual pens operates close to capacity at all times. Four trucks are constantly patrolling the unincorporated area of the Town collecting dogs which are lost, have been complained of, or whose owners wish them taken in for one reason or another. A fifth truck stands by for emergency calls.

Dogs entering the shelter are checked for disease and owners are notified of their whereabouts. Ill and injured dogs are placed in the special sick ward. Pets not reclaimed by their owners or adopted within five days are destroyed. However, since the opening of this Town Shelter in 1951, more than 70% of dogs taken in are either reclaimed or adopted. This clean, wholesome animal shelter has both individual pens and individual outdoor runs. It has the most modern sanitary furnishings, a spotless kitchen for preparing canine meals, and proper lighting and heating. A specially-built decompression chamber brings quick, painless execution. A highly trained staff provides excellent care for the animals and keeps the quarters spotless. Although operation of a Town Animal Shelter is more expensive than the old time private contracting, it has proven far more satisfactory. Fees charged for pick-up, reclamations, adoption, etc. help to defray the annual expense.

ENGINEERING and PLANNING



Engineering has played a mighty role in the spectacular development of your Town of Hempstead. Engineering studies are continually being made in order that existing facilities will not deteriorate or suffer from neighboring constructions and that new facilities will be an asset rather than a burden to the community. There is a constant need for planning, design and engineering checks, calling for an alert and experienced engineering staff.

Drainage is an ever present problem. Though nature has provided proper geographic contour for adequate drainage, man-made construction often nullifies nature's plans. Thus the grade for property involved in new building, for roads, sidewalks and curbs, for parking fields, etc. must be checked to assure proper drainage. Storm drains and recharge basins must be designed to fit particular conditions and locations.

In the case of water supply, mains must be laid out and hydrants located to assure adequate distribution and sufficient pressure to meet all demands and afford adequate fire protection. Plans for street lighting must be reviewed and approved as being in the public welfare before installation.

Applications for rezoning require a check of property description, and applications for business and industrial buildings require investigation into the needs for marginal roads and off-street parking facilities adjacent to them.

Engineering also enters into our maintenance and control of Town waters and the protection of offshore frontage. Channels must be charted, marked and maintained, waterfront construction and dredging operations must be considered and approved, plans for bulkheads and piling must be reviewed, and sea walls and jetties must be designed and supervised independently or in conjunction with Federal and State authorities.

These and many other classifications involving physical change and construction and provision for utilities require the services of the Engineering Department which works closely with many of the departments of Town Government.

PUBLIC LANDS

A cherished heritage of the Town of Hempstead is the more than 8000 acres of Town lands, so carefully guarded that approval by public referendum is necessary before any parcel can be sold or used by any other agency of government.

It was such cooperation of the people of Hempstead in deeding great tracts of shorefront to the State of New York that made possible beautiful Jones Beach.

The area that is now Garden City was once part of the Hempstead Plain and was sold by the town to A. T. Stewart in the latter part of the 19th Century for development of a model village. After the turn of the century the Town also sold the land on which the City of Long Beach is now located. Monies from each of these sales are in special funds handled by the Town Treasurer.




Hempstead is especially proud of Town-owned Greenfield Cemetery. One of the few municipally owned cemeteries in the State, this 145-acre burial ground was established in 1869. A three-man elected Board of Trustees oversees the administration of this self-supporting cemetery including the management of a perpetual care fund which now amounts to over \$600,000. There is also a Greenfield Cemetery Fund, created by setting aside 10 per cent from the sale of all cemetery plots, which is handled by the Town Treasurer.

Thousands of acres of valuable public lands owned by the people are one of the Town's greatest assets and will continue to pay forthcoming generations ever-increasing dividends.



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TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD
 Nassau County, N. Y.

WARRANT NUMBER 1000
 OF P. 100 15

TO THE PRECEDING SUPERVISOR
 AND THE CLERK OF THE
 TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD
 Nassau County, N. Y.

DELINQUENT
 IN THE PAYMENT OF TAXES
 DUE ON THE 1ST DAY OF JANUARY 1900
 OF THE TAXES FOR THE YEAR 1900
 OF THE TAXES FOR THE YEAR 1900
 OF THE TAXES FOR THE YEAR 1900

JAMES C. CROFT
 TOWN CLERK

COMPTROLLER



The printing and addressing of tax bills for the collection of State, County and special district levies keeps this printing press busy.

Hempstead's growth in the past 20 years and the increase in amount of service to this rising population is reflected in the tax collections over this period. They have multiplied six-fold from \$3,800,000 in 1933 to nearly \$23,000,000 today. Collection of school taxes has grown even faster to a figure over \$25,000,000.

The school tax bill is sent out by the Town, collected and turned over to the treasurer of your school district without charge. The Town does not establish school tax rates! You, as a taxpayer, vote on the budget for your district as submitted to you by the Board of Education, whom you elect.

The Town acts merely as the billing and collection agent. The County's obligation is to pay to each school district the full amount of uncollected taxes.

You vote on the budget submitted by your elected School Board — the Town merely collects the money and turns it over to the school district.

TAX COLLECTION

Although there continues to be no general Town Tax, the rocketing growth of the unincorporated areas of the Town has made the Tax Collector's Office one of the busiest in the country, handling half as many transactions as the combined five boroughs of New York City.

Residents receive two separate tax bills from the Town. The first is a consolidated levy covering the Supreme Court, the County, highways, police, and special districts. Rates on taxes turned over to the State and County are Town-wide but those collected for special districts vary with the district, of which there are more than 130.





LEGAL MATTERS

Town government is closely bound by law. Its successful operation for the benefit of the people depends on enactment of sound statutes and fair but firm enforcement of them. The increasing scope and complexity of Town government brings to Town officials an ever greater need for highly trained and specialized legal counsel. They protect the legal rights and property of the public.

This protection is furnished by the Town Attorney's Office. He and his staff study, advise and prepare legislation to insure that it will be in the public interest, conform to established legislation, and convey desired intent under all foreseeable circumstances.

The complex operation of Town government calls for a tremendous amount of legal interpretation of established law, both in the general law of Town Government and in the many local ordinances.

The hundreds of applications annually for both change of zoning and for granting of variances, plus an even greater number of actual, attempted and near violations of zoning and other ordinances must be thoroughly checked. Novel situations and unusual circumstances, conflicting with the letter rather than the intent of the ordinance, often necessitate the preparation of amendments to existing legislation.

Members of the Town Attorney's staff represent the people before such regulatory and administrative bodies as the Public Service Commission and the Water Power and Control Commission on questions of grade crossing protection, public utility rates and regulations, water supply and distribution, and the like. The formation or extension of each special district requires legal assistance in the drafting of covering legislation, the acquisition of facilities or the formulation and issuance of bonds to cover capital needs.

The same applies to preliminary negotiations, preparation of contracts, examination of titles, and condemnation proceedings in the acquisition of property for highways, parks, parking fields, utility installations, etc. All contracts entered into by the Town and all resolutions of the Town Board are also subject to legal examination.

Legal representation is necessary in many court matters, questions and suits involving the Town's jurisdiction to regulate the use of private land in conformity with the public welfare, defense of personal injury and property damage claims arising from the operation of the various Town facilities, and prosecution of violations of Town ordinances.

PARKING FIELDS

Not the least of Hempstead's growing pains has been that of auto parking. Faced with business stagnation, traffic jams and mounting delays and inconveniences to public carriers and private cars all due to inadequate parking facilities, the Town Board has taken positive action. More than a half million dollars in bonds have been issued to establish off-the-street parking fields, and additional land for this purpose has been acquired through the County Department of Public Works, New York State and New York City.

Parking districts have been set up in communities where such parking fields have been established. In this way only taxpayers of the benefitted area pay for the cost of property acquisition, improvement and maintenance of the fields. The Town Board administers these parking fields and also those in Levittown which were completed by the builder and deeded to the Town. Additional off-the-street spaces are being established under a long-range plan as the need arises in fast growing communities. Wherever possible, parking fields are located close to railroad stations to serve commuters, as well as shoppers. The Town Highway Department keeps all fields in condition, removes snow, and paints the white lines. The Town also furnishes proper lighting.

The Town Board has established a policy that applications for building permits for stores, business buildings and industrial plants must provide for adequate off-street parking spaces. Developers must set new buildings well back from existing roadways to allow for future road widening, and must provide marginal roads in front of business blocks.

This program of adding new parking facilities in established business sections and insisting on suitable parking areas with all new development assures constant improvement in the over-all parking situation.



PLANNING for TOMORROW

This has been the story of the Town of Hempstead—growth from a small band of settlers escaping from persecution to a thriving community of 600,000 people, many escapists themselves from the congestions of the city.

We have traced the growth of the community and its government through 300 years, from a few thousand dollars to a billion dollars in assessed valuations. You have seen how the Town Meeting still serves the people of Hempstead in the selection of competent officials and in administration according to the will of the majority.

Town government, a la Nassau, is based on the principle that smaller units give the locality just what it wants in improvements and for which it is willing to pay. No other part of the town has to pay in taxes for something it does not enjoy.



200 new residents every day

New buildings, new installations are started daily.



Providing for today, planning for tomorrow

Yes, you have seen more clearly the many ways in which your Town Government serves you at home, at play, on the road and in business — how the Town Board, whose members come from both villages and unincorporated areas, solves the over-all comprehensive problems of the community.

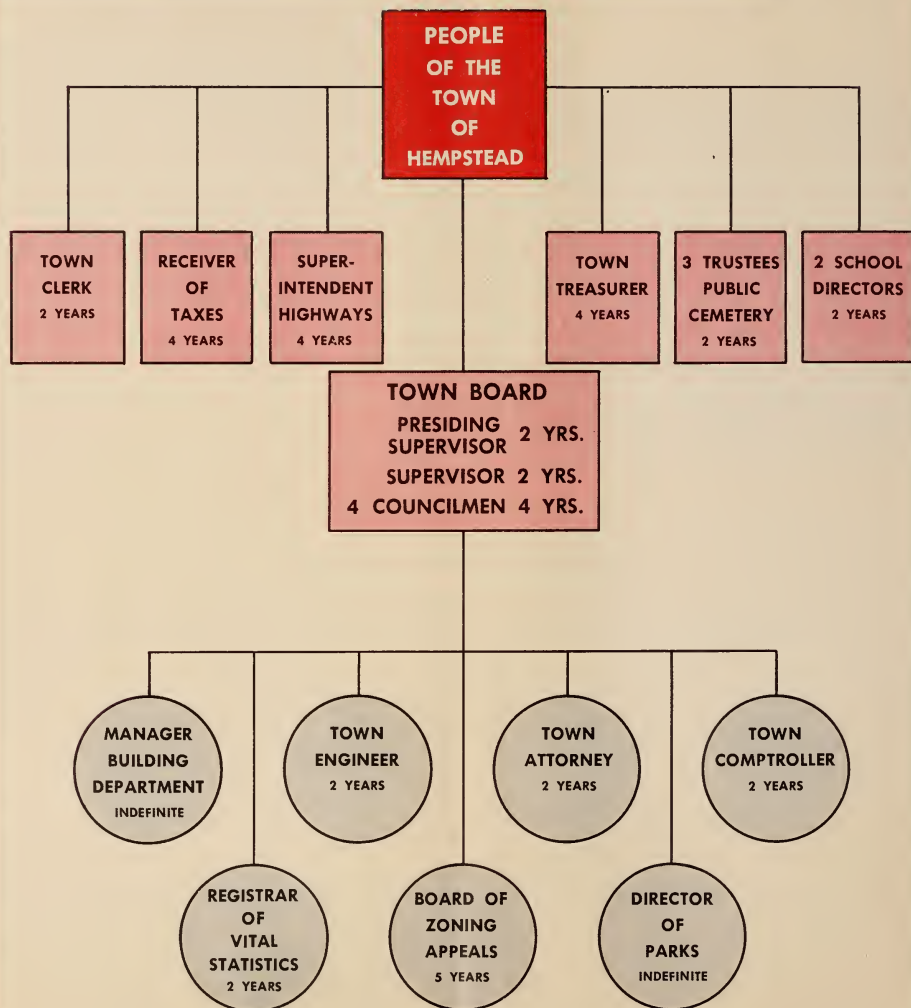
With such a population rise as we have had since the War, it is easy to understand the need for tremendously increased facilities, expanded services, mounting costs, and greater space and manpower for governmental functions. All have been provided as rapidly as possible.

But this is not the end of the story. Development of your Town continues at a fast pace. On this very day some 200 new residents joined us, and more than 40 new structures were started for new homes or businesses.

The need for water and other utilities, the use of highways and parking fields, the attendance in our schools have all soared overnight. The same will be true tomorrow, the next day and, according to the best forecasts, for many a day and many a year.

Your Town Government is constantly providing for today and planning for tomorrow, building and preparing for your welfare that you may be even more proud and happy to be a resident of the Town of Hempstead — *the Town that says "YES" to progress so that broad vision and sound planning may guide development to a greater future.*

GOVERNMENTAL CHART



OFFICIALS

HAROLD P. HERMAN
Presiding Supervisor

JOHN H. McCONNELL
Supervisor

Councilmen

CHARLES A. HEWLETT
EARNEST STEINBRENNER

NATHAN L. H. BENNETT
Town Clerk

RALPH C. COOK
Receiver of Taxes

RALPH G. CASO
DESMOND J. DRISCHELL

MICHAEL LEFTOFF
Town Treasurer

FRED MEYER
Superintendent of Highways

Trustees Public Cemetery
WILLIAM C. VOEHL

EDWARD C. SPRAGUE

PETER J. DOYLE

School Directors

ALFRED J. GOLDBERG

JOHN GREENWOOD

JACOB FRERK
Town Comptroller

JOHN YOUNG
Manager Building Department

JOHN A. MORHOUS
Town Attorney

THOMAS V. KELLY
Director of Parks

ARTHUR HERBERGER
Town Engineer

FREDERICK HITCHERICH
Registrar of Vital Statistics

Board of Zoning Appeals

ROBERT C. RICHTER
Chairman

W. KENNETH CHAVE
CHARLES B. GREGORY

WALTER G. MICHAELIS
WILLIAM W. SEIFFERT

